

TIGER! TIGER!

Bob Schwerdt 505L

Tiger! Tiger! burning bright
In the forests of the night

Il Wm. Blake

In the reduced living areas of the wild, tigers are not burning brightly; rather, they are fading away - some species are on the road to extinction. Perhaps in zoos and in perfin albums, tigers will continue to have a happy existence.

Speaking of perfins, I examined the catalogs containing Federated Malay States (FMS) tiger perfins. The chart on the next page shows the comparative entries for three catalogs: Giffen's *Perfins of British Malaya*, Schwerdt's *World Perfins Catalog* (Asian section), and Lavender's *Perfins of Malaysia*. Catalog numbers, number of issues reported, and postmark information are listed.

The earliest FMS stamps, also tiger designs, were those overprinted from Negri-Sembilan and Perak, but none with perfins have been reported by Lavender. I have a few of the early ones with date punches.

Other Malay states show tigers on more modern stamps. However, we are concerned in this article with only those small, horizontal FMS issues depicting the full, magnificent beast on the attack!

These are the stamps that fascinated pre-teen collectors who had never heard of perfins.



The Scott catalog indicates that the FMS tiger stamps were issued from 1901 through 1934 on ordinary and on chalky paper with three different watermarks. Only Lavender lists the known issues using Gibbons catalog numbers. The FMS stamps were a sort of interim project between the earlier and the later individual states issues. Political changes created many name changes in the Malay peninsula.

Both Giffen and Lavender illustrate a "CANCELLED" punch, but do not attribute it to FMS stamps. I have a smaller (9mm) item on the tiger issue (see illustration). This freak was caused by a paper fold before punching.

Like the tigers themselves, there are a limited number of FMS tiger perfins. Both deserve to be preserved!



Pat	Giffen		Lavender		Schwerdt	Postmarks	Notes
	Cat #	# iss	Cat #	# iss	Cat #		
B+Co	No List	---	B3b	2	A1	Penang ¹	
B+Co Ltd	B4	6	B4a	7	A2	Kuala Lumpur Port Seetenham	
CBI	C5	8	C5	12	A3	Kuala Lumpur Singapore ¹	
Cbi	C4	---	C4	---	A3.5	Penang Kuala Lumpur ¹ Ipoh ¹	Neither Giffen nor Lavender list this type for FMS A3.5 rounder C than A3
MBI	M5	13	M5	17	A4	Kuala Lumpur	
ORI ENT AL•	O1	5	O1a	7	A5	Kuala Lumpur	Giffen catalog illustration shows no hole in the 'O'. Both others show it
S.T.C.	S10	---	S10b	3	A6	Singapore & Branches Kuala Lumpur ²	Giffen does not list for FMS
S.T.Co.	S11	5	S11	5	A7	Ipoh ...borend ²	
W& Co	W1	17	W1	28	A8	Klang (Kelang) Penang ¹	

1 – Listed in World Perfin
Catalog
2 - Schwerdt collection

General:
Selangor State: Kuala Lumpur, Klang, and Port Sweetenham
Perak State: Ipoh
Malaysia: Penang
Crown Colony: Singapore